NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

NEWS

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MEDLARS III

NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, M.D., has appointed a MEDLARS III Task Force to develop, by September 1980, functional specifications for future automation at NLM.

The new system is intended to extend and improve MEDLARS II capabilities. MEDLARS II is the present computer system that provides NLM's automated publications, technical processing, and online bibliographic retrieval operations.

MEDLARS III will integrate the automated bibliographic and library functions that are now being developed in several parts of the Library, including the Technical Services Division, Bibliographic Services Division, Reference Services Division, Lister Hill Center, and Specialized Information Services. The automated system developed under MEDLARS III will have an important impact on all categories of users, both within the Library and at remote sites in the network.

The specifications developed for MEDLARS III should be regarded as a plan to achieve a rational, responsive, and comprehensive computer-based system for managing and delivering bibliographic information, data, and documents. It should improve the present level of efficiency for creating and maintaining records, increase the quality and timeliness of stored information, and enhance retrieval and output mechanisms. MEDLARS III planning will also provide an opportunity to examine basic issues and challenges facing library and information systems and to address the policy decisions facing NLM with regard to its role in emerging national networks.

MEDLARS III will be an open-ended system. While milestones will be set for specific objectives, the system will remain evolutionary in nature to permit the incorporation of new technology, new user needs, and new directions for the National Library of Medicine and the library community it serves. One of the preliminary phases of this activity will be the retrospective conversion of the NLM shelflist which will begin this year (see *News*, July 1979).

The MEDLARS III Task Force (left to right): Ben Erdman, Betsy Humphries, Duane Arenales, Richard Dick, Grace McCarn, John Cox, Laura Kassebaum, Lillian Kozuma, and Dr. Joseph Leiter. (Not pictured, Robert Schultheisz.)

Dr. Joseph Leiter, chairman, and Mr. Ben Erdman, deputy chairman, head the Task Force which comprises representatives from Library Operations, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, Office of Computer and Communications Systems, and Specialized Information Services. In addition to Dr. Leiter and Mr. Erdman, seven staff members have been appointed to the Task Force, and other NLM staff will be called on to assist as required.

In the coming months, the Task Force will be seeking advice from the library and information community so that the new system will provide the very best services to NLM and the health sciences community of users.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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NLM Explores Facsimile Transmission via Satellite

On July 13 NLM received a document at U.S. Postal Service (USPS) headquarters in Washington, D.C., which had been sent by the British Lending Library in response to an NLM interlibrary loan request. What makes this newsworthy is that the document—requested and received in less than 24 hours—had been transmitted in a matter of minutes from London using a new service called INTELPOST.

INTELPOST (International Electronic Post) is a digital facsimile network that uses the INTELSAT IV-A satellite for transmitting black and white material. The system is made available in the United States by USPS in cooperation with Argentina, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iran, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. In the U.S., there are two INTELPOST facilities (in New York and Washington). Delivery of INTELPOST mail will be made by postal personnel according to the regular postal services available in each country, with the particular choice of service selected by the originating INTELPOST customer.

INTELPOST is currently in a demonstration phase with the United Kingdom; other countries will be phased in over the coming months. Invited participants have been using the service experimentally on a limited basis without charge. USPS has indicated that the cost of the system could be as much as $5 per page, plus the cost of any special delivery services.

NLM recognizes the potential of facsimile and other electronic techniques for document delivery, and the availability of INTELPOST on a demonstration basis has afforded the Library an excellent chance to gain insight into both the technical characteristics and the processes and procedures that would be required if such a system were used operationally. Ben Erdman, Deputy Director of the Library's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, arranged for the NLM INTELPOST demonstration in collaboration with Duane Arenales, head of NLM's Circulation and Control Section, and Shirley King of the British Lending Library.

Mr. Erdman emphasized that while the initial demonstration was impressive, it would be premature to draw any firm conclusions regarding quality and cost effectiveness of this service. The quality of transmission appears to be more than adequate for most purposes, but there are still unanswered questions regarding the minimum resolution and levels of gray scales (contrast) needed for acceptable reproduction of photographs (e.g., x-rays), complex drawings, or very fine print. Regarding cost, since this is a service that will be available commercially on demand, it could be used selectively in situations where urgency could well justify the seemingly high cost per page. Further if information technology and service forecasts are correct, costs can be expected to drop in future years.

NLM will continue to explore the use of facsimile both through INTELPOST and through domestic systems using available and emerging technologies.

Former Director Honored

The Kentucky Historical Society has mounted an exhibit of artifacts from the military career of Maj. Gen. Edgar E. Hume, director of the Library (then the Army Medical Library) from 1932 to 1936. Hume, who died in 1952, is the most decorated medical officer in American military history. While serving as surgeon general of American troops in Korea, Hume initiated the concept of Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals and brought medical aid close to the front. The exhibit will be displayed through September at the Kentucky Historical Society's Military History Museum in Frankfort.

On July 25 Lois Ann Colaianni, president of the Medical Library Association, visited NLM. In addition to her MLA duties, Mrs. Colaianni directs the Health Science Information Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She spent the day meeting with the NLM Director, Martin M. Cummings, M.D., the Associate Director for Library Operations, Joseph Leiter, Ph.D. (photo), and other staff members. Among the subjects discussed were new efforts of MLA to assist hospital librarians and the role of the NLM-MLA Liaison Committee.

New Fee for Interlibrary Loans to Non-U.S. Libraries

Effective October 1, 1979, the service charge for photocopy requests filled by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) for foreign institutions will be $4.00. The fee is for a single article or portion of an article up to 50 pages in length. No charge is made for requests which are not filled. Requests received at NLM on or after October 1, 1979, will be billed at the new rate.

A Bill for Collection carrying full instructions for remittance is included with each filled loan. Payment may be made either by money order, cashier's check, or bank draft drawn in U.S. dollars collectable at par in the United States. NLM has no facilities for setting up deposit accounts to cover interlibrary loan transactions. Institutions are reminded *not* to send payment in advance.

Libraries are urged to utilize resources within their own countries before sending requests to the National Library of Medicine.

If further information is required, write to: Head, Circulation and Control Section, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland 20209 USA.

Historical Acquisitions

The Library's History of Medicine Division enriched its collection in recent months with the acquisition of a number of interesting items.

One of the most important was William Harvey's *Exercitatio Anatomica de Circulatione Sanguinis* (Paris, 1650). This work contains two essays addressed to Jean Riolan in which Harvey answered, for the first time in print, criticisms of his work on the circulation of blood leveled by Riolan and others. It was first published in Cambridge in 1649 (an edition which the Library still lacks); editions after 1650 were appended to Harvey's *De Motu Cordis*.

Another interesting acquisition was Nicholas Culpeper's *Directory of Midwives* (London, 1652). First printed in 1651, this small book was published no fewer than twelve times in the following 125 years. Very few copies are listed in the *National Union Catalog*, suggesting that the *Directory of Midwives* may have been used so much that it was "thumbed out of existence."

The first incunabulum of .the year was acquired in March—Petrus de Argellata's *Chirurgia* (Venice, 1497/98). The author was a well known professor in Bologna during the early 15th century. The Library now holds three of the four 15th century editions of this work.

A long desired Americanum, Peter Smith's *The Indian Doctor's Dispensatory* (Cincinnati, 1813), was acquired in April. This was the first medical book published in Ohio.

Other important accessions included the rare first German translation of Dioscorides' *De Materia Medica*, the *Kreutter Buch* published in Frankfort in 1546. No copy is listed in the *National Union Catalog*. Another was the first edition of Robert Boyle's *Certain Physiological Essays* (London, 1661), an important early work in chemistry in which Boyle outlined his corpuscular hypothesis, including a discussion of the process of digestion.

Publications Grants (Cont.)

This concludes the list of recent publications resulting from NLM support under the Medical Library Assistance Act (see *News* June and July 1979).

Continued on page 4.

Continued from page 3.

Sheridan, Richard B. "The West Indian Antecedents of Josiah Martin, Last Royal Governor of North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Vol. 54, No. 3, July 1977, pp. 253-270.

Sollers-Riedel, Helen. "Literature References to Mosquitoes, and Mosquito-Borne Diseases. 1978- Part 1." *Mosquito News*, Vol. 38, No. 1, March 1978, pp. 163 ff.

_____ . Part II, *Mosquito News*, Vol. 38, No. 2, June 1978, pp. 303-323.

_____ . Part III, *Mosquito News*, Vol. 38, No. 3, September 1978, pp. 429-448.

Sussman, George D. "Enlightened Health Reform, Professional Medicine and Traditional Society: The Cantonal Physicians of the Bas-Rhin, 1810-1870," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Vol. 51, 1977, pp. 565-584.

Vercammen-Grandjean, P.H. and Langston, R. *The Chigger Mites of the World.* Volume III. Leptotrombidium complex. Section A. Leptotrombidium s. str. San Francisco, California: George Williams Hooper Foundation of the University of California, 1976. 612 pp.

_____ . Section B. Trombiculindus, Hypotrombidium & Ericotrombidium, plus heterogenera. San Francisco, California: George Williams Hooper Foundation, University of California, 1976. 1,061 pp.

_____ . Section C. Iconography. San Francisco, California: George Williams Hooper Foundation of the University of California, 1975. 298 pp.

Wangensteen, Owen H., and Wangensteen, Sarah D. *The Rise of Surgery: From Empiric Craft to Scientific Discipline.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1978. 785 pp.

Wolf, Stewart G. and Berle, Beatrice Bishop. *Limits of Medicine: The Doctor's Job in the Coming Era.* N.Y.: Plenum Press, 1978. 155 pp.

Serial Gap List

NLM is soliciting the help of the medical library community in filling gaps in our serial collections. If you can provide any of these items we would be most grateful. Please address them to:

National Library of Medicine
TSD-GAPS
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

American Archives of Rehabilitation Therapy 20: 1971; 22: June 1974; 24: 4, 1976

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 33: 1-3, 1963; 48: 2, 1978

Current Concepts in Gastroenterology 1: 1, 1976

Health Care Week 1: 25, 1978; 2: 4, 1978

JAOA. Journal of the American Osteopathic Association 77: 9, 12, 1978

Journal of Experimental Education 12: 1943; 13: March, 1945; 32: 1, 4, 1963; 34: 3, 1966

Journal of Milk and Food Technology 12: 1949

News and Views of the Dental Laboratory Craft 3:6

Newsletter - Foundation for Medical Research, Perinatal Study Nos. 1-30, 32-49

Newsletter - International Council of Psychologists 3: 4, 1962; 4: 1, 1962

Soviet Journal of Ecology 6: 2-6, 1975; 7: 6, 1976

Tennessee Pharmacist 1:5, 1965; 2: 5, 1966; 3: 2, 10, 1967; 4: 2, 6, 9, 10-12 1968; 6: 1-12, 1970; 7: 1-3, 1971; 9: 7, 11, 1973; 10: 5, 1974

TPHA Journal 22: 5, 1970; 25: 3, 5, 1973

Transactions - American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology 68: Supp., 1968

Unlisted Drugs 26: 2, 1974